



General Assembly

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE

ALLOCATION OF ITEMS TO THE SECOND COMMITTEE

Letter dated 20 September 1991 from the President of the
General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the decisions taken by the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting pertaining to allocation of items to the Second Committee.

May I also invite your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the report of the General Committee (A/46/250), which were approved by the General Assembly also at its 3rd plenary meeting. I earnestly request your cooperation in this regard.

(Signed) Samir S. SHIHABI

Allocation of items to the Second Committee

1. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I to III, IV (sections B to D and F to I), V, VII (sections A to C and E to G) and IX] (item 12).

[The General Assembly decided that the chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and to the Third, Fourth and Fifth Committees:

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| (a) Chapter I | Plenary meetings, Third, Fourth and Fifth Committees |
| (b) Chapter IV (section F) | Plenary meetings, Third and Fifth Committees |
| (c) Chapter VII (section B) | Third and Fifth Committees |
| (d) Chapter VII (section C) | Fourth Committee |
| (e) Chapter VII (section G) | Third Committee |
| (f) Chapter IX | Plenary meetings and Third Committee] |

2. Development and international economic cooperation (item 77):

- (a) Trade and development;
- (b) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s;
- (c) World Decade for Cultural Development;
- (d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries;
- (e) Environment;
- (f) Desertification and drought;
- (g) Human settlements;
- (h) Science and technology for development;
- (i) Entrepreneurship;
- (j) Effective mobilization and integration of women in development.

3. United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (item 78).

4. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (item 79).
5. International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries (item 80).
6. External debt crisis and development (item 81).
7. Operational activities for development (item 82).

[The General Assembly decided that the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women would be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under this item].

- (a) Operational activities of the United Nations system;
 - (b) United Nations Development Programme;
 - (c) United Nations Capital Development Fund;
 - (d) United Nations technical cooperation activities;
 - (e) United Nations Volunteers programme;
 - (f) World Food Programme.
8. International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (item 83).
 9. Special economic and disaster relief assistance (item 84):
 - (a) Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator;
 - (b) Special programmes of economic assistance.
 10. International assistance for the economic rehabilitation of Angola (item 85).
 11. Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research (item 86).
 12. International cooperation to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the disaster at Chernobyl (item 87).
 13. Human resources development (item 88).
 14. Implementation of the commitments and policies agreed upon in the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of the Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries (item 89).

15. Industrial development cooperation and the diversification and modernization of productive activities in developing countries (item 90).
16. Emergency assistance for the economic and social rehabilitation of Liberia (item 91).

With regard to item 112 (Joint Inspection Unit), the General Assembly decided that the item would be allocated to the Fifth Committee with the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with the subject-matter assigned to other Main Committees would be referred also to those Committees. In the case of the Second Committee, the relevant report relates to agenda item 82.



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Forty-sixth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 12

REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Letter dated 24 September 1991 from the Permanent
Representative of Botswana to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the comments of my Government (see annex) concerning chapter V of the report of the Committee for Development Planning (E/1991/32).

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 12 of the agenda of the forty-sixth session.

(Signed) Legwaila J. M. J. LEGWAILA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Criteria for identifying least developed countries: report
of the Committee for Development Planning

1. At its second regular session, which took place in Geneva from 3 to 26 July 1991, the Economic and Social Council decided, *inter alia*, that chapter V of the report of the Committee for Development Planning should be considered during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly and that Member States should submit their comments to the Secretary-General before consideration of that chapter. In compliance with that request, we hereby submit our comments:

(a) The new criteria need a lot of statistics, which are not only difficult to compile but are also difficult to compare across countries. Due to the dearth of reliable data in the least developed countries, the application of the new criteria will undoubtedly involve a lot of subjectivity;

(b) There is no detailed explanation in the Committee report as to how the new cut-off points were arrived at;

(c) The graduation rule as proposed by the Committee for Development Planning does not explicitly provide for a transitional period for prospective "graduates" from the group of least developed countries. We are convinced that this should be included to enable the countries concerned to adjust their development plans accordingly and avoid disruptions to their development programmes that might result from a sudden reclassification. We would like to emphasize that prospective graduates should be those countries which have reached a level of economic development which is self-sustaining in the long term;

(d) The new criteria emphasize GDP per capita, which in our case is not a good indicator of economic performance because most of our output is not production but the sale of assets, mainly diamonds. A more appropriate indicator would have been net domestic product per capita, which takes into account depreciation and depletion of natural resources. In addition, we believe that in our case more emphasis should be given to the economic diversification criterion because of the monocultural nature of our economy;

(e) We note that we are on the borderline with respect to our Augmented Physical Quality of Life Index (APQLI), which is 52. This is exactly 5 points above the cut-off point of 47 as provided for in paragraph 245 of the Committee report. The recommendation to graduate Botswana from the group of least developed countries is silent on this point. Nor is there reference to the fact that Botswana is a drought-prone country. These factors should be seriously considered by the Committee for Development Planning;

(f) We would like to be furnished with the data, and the sources of that data, which were used to arrive at the conclusion that Botswana should graduate from the group of least developed countries.

/...

2. It should be noted that we are not opposed in principle to the concept of graduation. However, we believe that countries should be graduated only when they have reached a level of long-term sustainable development.

